



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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FOR: IMAGE SIGNAL ENCODING DEVICE  
AND IMAGE SIGNAL ENCODING METHOD

## SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

S I R :

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment supplements the Preliminary  
Amendment filed on March 19, 2001.

CLAIMS:

17. (Newly Added) In an encoder having first and second compression  
modes, a method of encoding an image frame including luminescence and color-  
difference signals, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving the image frame;

(b) selecting one of the first and second compression modes;

(c) subsampling the image frame received in step (a) to generate blocks of  
pixels, in which a total number of blocks generated depends on the compression  
mode selected in step (b);

(d) forming multiple macro blocks from the generated blocks of step (c), in  
which each macro block includes a predetermined number of blocks, the number  
of blocks of the compression mode selected in step (b) being the same as the  
number of blocks of the other compression mode; and

(e) compressing each macro block formed in step (d).

18. (Newly Added) The method of claim 17 in which compressing each  
macro block in step (e) includes compressing each macro block using an amount  
of code, the amount of code used for the compression mode selected in step (b)  
being the same as the amount of code used for the other compression mode.

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01 10:203  
02 10:102